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and pave the way for its more rapid progress, and for a triumph more speedy and glorious.

The time has come, I think, for a much more extensive rally in behalf of this cause than has ever yet been made or attempted. It is the grand interest of the world; and its claims we should urge upon every friend whether of God or man. Almost every movement for the good of mankind is beginning to put in practice more or less of our principles; and scarce an enterprise of benevolence or reform, that might not be laid under contribution to our cause. Of all such influences we should avail ourselves to the utmost, and set the ark of peace afloat on this tide of universal improvement. We should spread our sails for every breeze that may waft us sooner into the port of universal and permanent peace. We should press into our service every possible auxiliary. We need and may secure all the good influences of the world. The age of brute force is fast giving place to the era of moral influence; and even legislators and warriors, the disciples of Draco, and the sons of Mars, are beginning to learn that there are better means than those of bloodshed for controlling rational beings. Such is the spirit of the age; and, with little if any use of bayonets or bullets, of halters or chains, it will yet contrive to restrain the wrong-doer, to protect the innocent, and right the injured. The reign of love is coming; and its triumphs over bad passions and customs will ere-long astonish the world. This spirit calls for peace; and, should we make our platform broad enough to include all that are really desirous, from any motives, of putting an end to the time-hallowed tyranny of the sword, we might ere-long rally for its utter abolition every well-wisher to mankind. Let us do our whole duty; and not another war shall ever sweep its besom of blood and fire over any portion of the civilized world.

¶ These suggestions, my dear Sir, I humbly submit, in the hope that they may serve in some measure to prepare the way in this cause for a more effective co-operation of all that love God, their country, or their species.

GEO. C. BECKWITH.

BOSTON, U. S. A., May, 1844.

P. S. I wish it to be understood, that I am alone responsible for the contents of this letter.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

WAR AND INTEMPERANCE.—A late report of the New British and Foreign Temperance Society, computes that in one hundred and one battalions, in a period of eighteen years, 143,218 soldiers, or one-tenth of the whole, have been tried for crimes committed under the influence of strong drink, and have received 11,925,575 lashes, and 3,453,796 days' imprisonment; and the deluded lovers of strong drink have forfeited in their pay for drunkenness, about \$500,000.

A MODERN WAR-SHIP.—“As an item of news,” says a letter-writer in 1842, “I might tell you of the steam-ship of war Union, Captain Hunter, now lying at the Washington navy yard. If accounts of her be true, she might be more appropriately called *The Unique*, for she is the only one of her kind. Her tonnage is near 1200; and she is propelled by a horizontal wheel submerged some fifteen feet below the surface. This wheel is protected by a sort of false bottom, so that it may be considered altogether within the boat. Her armament is, I think, eight sixty-eight pounders for solid or hollow shot, and her speed is to be twelve miles per hour. Her bow is exceedingly sharp, and is built pigeon-breasted, so as to cause an enemy’s balls *aller-a-fleur*, at any but a large angle, and it is said that even in this case her powers of resistance are uncommonly great.

“The particular purpose she is intended to serve, is to meet broadside on, and cut an enemy’s ship in two; and this favor, it is supposed, she can effect

for any marine edifice now afloat. After the concussion, she is to back her engines, and retire for another attack on a second enemy, or to allow her boats to pick up the surviving crew of her vanquished foe ; and what is more astonishing than all, is that her enginery is so constructed as suddenly to shift its place, without detriment or derangement. This last precaution is obviously necessary to her effectiveness for the purpose intended. She is, in short, represented as a sort of steam marine battering-ram, or Roman-beaked trireme, with the modern advantages of the steam engine and Paixhan gun."

Here is the enginery of war ; but is it such as Christian love would use towards enemies ? Are such terrible engines of death and devastation, such floating hells of mischief, the chosen instruments of good to mankind ? Are they such as Christ or his apostles would have employed in their missions of mercy ?

INFLUENCE OF PASTORS.—“To educate the church into its missionary character,” says the Dayspring, “is the appropriate work of the pastor. Agents cannot do it without the aid of the pastors ; the press cannot do it ; the annual appeals and passing impulses of public meetings cannot do it. On the pastors rests the great weight of obligation to bring out the capabilities which yet lie dormant in the church for converting the world to Christ. Like well distributed sentinels, they can summon to prayer, or incite to action, or thrill with joy, almost at once, the entire line of God’s elect host.”

All this is equally, if not more applicable to the subject of peace. The church is God’s chosen instrument for the world’s reformation ; and it devolves on his ministers to enlighten and guide, to rouse and stimulate its members in this great work. This is God’s method ; and if the church and her ministry will take hold of it in earnest, the work of reform, in this and every other department, would go on with ease, harmony and success.

WEARING CONCEALED WEAPONS.—“No man,” says the Albany Argus, “arms himself with a dirk-knife, for instance, without meditating violence, or without reference to some occasion when he may put it to fatal uses. The fact of a person having such weapons about him ought to be, by law, *prima facie* evidence of an indiscriminate design upon human life, either in self-defence, or in aggression ; and he ought to be punished criminally, and as severely in proportion, as for having in one’s possession counterfeit bills. The deadly intent ought to be presumed from the fact of possession ; as the having counterfeit bills is *prima facie* proof of an intention to utter them.”

Here is good common sense ; but mark its bearing on the custom of war. 1. ‘No nation arms itself without meditating war, or an actual use of its deadly weapons ; that is, preparation for war occasions war.’ Just what the friends of peace have always said. 2. ‘The bare fact of such preparation ought to be *prima facie* evidence of a murderous intent, either in aggression or self-defence.’ Preparation for war criminal ! 3. ‘The guilt should be presumed from the mere fact of such preparation, as in the case of a man’s having counterfeit bills.’ All the war-preparations of Christendom are so many proofs of an intent to commit therewith robbery and murder by wholesale. Such, it would seem, are the conclusions of common sense when applied to war.

MILITARY WEAR AND TEAR.—“The 66th,” said an English paper in 1842, “at present quartered in our barracks, was one of the regiments sent out to St. Helena, in charge of the Emperor Napoleon, and which remained there until his death. It was three grenadiers from this regiment, with an equal number of the 20th, that carried the “immortal hero of a thousand fights” to his tomb. So rapid is the tear and wear of the army, that there remain now in the 66th, only one captain, one serjeant, one corporal, and one drummer, who were present at the above memorable event, though only one year previous, the corps consisted of 1200, rank and file, with its proportion of commissioned and non-commissioned officers.”